

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, 18, and 22 (as well as additional claims) were identified as being drawn to allowable subject matter. To accelerate prosecution, claims 11, 12, 18 and 22 are being presented in independent form substantially as previously presented, and all other claims in the case are canceled.

The amendment makes moot all outstanding rejections and objections.

The applicant reserves the right to pursue claims substantially similar to those which have been canceled, or alternative claims supported by the patent specification, in one or more continuation applications.

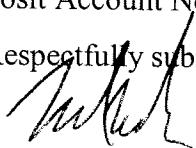
The applicant has previously paid for more than four independent claims; therefore, no additional fees should be due for this amendment. However, should additional fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge attorney's deposit account 50-2041.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 11, 12, 18, and 22 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557
Customer No.: 30743